



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Mt. Hood National Forest

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Greetings,

You are receiving this letter because you hold a special use permit on the Mt. Hood National Forest, or you have applied for a Special Use permit recently. We want to keep you informed on changes in personnel and on the pause we are taking on accepting new proposals for the remainder of this year.

We are currently working on filling two important positions in Special Uses that were held by Paul Norman and Andrew Burrows. Paul has recently retired from the Forest Service, and Andrew has moved on in his career. In the interim, Amber Burleigh will be covering a portion of their workload; she can be reached at (503) 668-1456.

Along with these changes in personnel, we have received over 60 proposals for permits or permit modifications. To address these proposals, and manage an existing caseload of 700 permits, we will not accept new proposals for the remainder of this year.

This pause applies to new proposals for non-recreation special uses and to selected recreation special uses, specifically ski areas, resorts and organizational camps. We will continue to accept other recreation permit proposals and filming proposals, as well as proposals for projects necessary to address an *imminent* risk to public health and safety.

We are prioritizing existing applications--currently in various stages of our review process--and will expedite those that are farthest along. The Forest Special Uses staff will work as quickly as possible in processing these applications.

Our overriding goal is to manage the Special Use program in a way that provides quality customer service, while also complying with the laws and regulations that guide our mission to care for the land and serve people *for the greatest good*. This short-term pause will allow us to better insure existing applications are processed in a timely manner. When new applications are again accepted, they will be handled via a more efficient process that is under development. We look forward to sharing results of these efforts after processing our backlog.

We intend to again accept new special use proposals beginning January 1st, 2014. If we need to extend the pause we will let you know by December 1st, 2013. During the year we will work to update our Special Uses website to provide information about the program and processes. The following link will be updated over the next year:
www.fs.usda.gov/main/mthood/passes-permits.

If you have specific questions or suggestions for the website, please contact your permit administrator or the web-based email at: www.fs.usda.gov/contactus/mthood/about-forest/contactus. You may also contact Jennifer Wade, Acting Recreation and Lands Program Manager at (503)668-1792.

Thank you for your understanding and patience as we transition and make improvements to our Special Uses program.

Sincerely,

/s/ Claire Lavendel
CLAIRE LAVENDEL
Acting Forest Supervisor

